

26. May. 1690.

A Word in Season.

By the Whigg Party touching the Election for Mayor, Sheriffs & Chamberlains of London.

BE not offended, good Fellow Citizens, to be put in remembrance of your Duties to God and Men, in the Elections now to be made, by Special Act of Parliament, of your Chief Officers for your City, for 16 or 17. Months; the due Course and Execution of Justice, and the quiet Welfare and Safety of the City, chiefly depending, under God, upon your Uprightness, Care, and Prudence in these Elections.

There are general and perpetual Duties upon you as Christians, and as Men, in your Elections of Magistrates in all times, and upon all occasions.

The best of your Judgments ought always to be exercised about the Qualities of Men nominated for Offices; Whether their Abilities and Integrities be sufficient for such Trusts, to serve the excellent ends for which Government is ordained.

All Private Interests and Respects in all such Elections ought to be resigned entirely to the Publick Service and Advantage. Every man in giving his Voice, ought conscientiously to remember, That he acts and Votes as a Member of the Body-Politick, and must not be guided by his Private separate Profit or Inclinations, and much less by any irregular sinful Passions.

But the Time and Occasion of the Elections now to be made, being extraordinary, special suitable Duties arise from thence, deduced from the general Rules which ought to be particularly understood, and attended to faithfully.

This is a Time of the young Deliverance of the City from great Oppression, by the Illegal, Arbitrary Proceedings of the Courts of Justice, to overturn all your Rights and Liberties, and destroy the very being of your City.

'Tis a Time wherein many of your Citizens yet flourish, who were corrupted by the late Designers of Popery and Slavery, to comply with them in their Practices against the Freedom of the City, and the Religion and Government of the Kingdom.

'Tis a Time of great Dissimulation and Equivocation, even in taking the Establish'd Oath of Allegiance; many taking those Oaths to Their now Majesties, who refuse to acknowledg them to be our Lawful Sovereigns, and to promise to assist them: Which plainly shews their Intentions to overturn the Government if they can.

'Tis a Time wherein many do still shew their will (as far as they may safely) to justifie all the vile pernicious Practices against this Cities, and the Kingdoms Liberties.

'Tis a time wherein many, of whose Faithfulness to the Government there are just hopes, who have not yet had opportunities to give such sufficient Evidence of their Affections, and their Repentance of former Miscarriages, as to fit them to be Elected into the greatest Trusts in the City Government.

'Tis a Time of danger of the Peace of the City. Designs to reduce the Kingdom to Popery and Slavery, being daily discovered.

The Occasion of these Elections is to remove all the Doubts and Disputes about the Magistracy and Officers, and their Authorities, occasioned by those that complied with the Violence and Oppression done to the City.

These being the Circumstances of the Time, and the Occasion of the present Elections, 'tis most certainly the Duty of every good Citizen,

1. In Nomination of Persons for the Magistracy, to enquire whether they complied in the late Kings Reigns, with the Designs against the Rights and Liberties of the City: Whether they were ready to submit to those Kings Wills in destroying and taking away by Force, the Liberty of the Election of the Lord Mayor and Sheriffs: Or brought down Force of Arms to hinder the Freedom of Choice, or countenanced and encouraged the same; Or whether they failed in their Courage and Constancy in defending that Fundamental Freedom of the City.

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2. 'Tis necessary to enquire, how far any nominated to be chosen, complied in the first Designs against the Religion and Government of the Kingdom, by Opposing or making Addresses against the Bill of Exclusion of the late R. James when Duke of York, which was to break in pieces the whole Design of Popery and Slavery.

3. 'Tis a Duty, when any man shall be propounded for any of the Offices, to consider how they demean'd themselves in any of the former Offices towards the Citizens: Whether they exercised Arbitrary Powers over them, and vexed them unjustly; or burdened them; or perverted Law and Justice; or shewed their Partiality; and to enquire what Proofs they have given of their Repentance.

4. 'Tis an unquestionable Duty to have regard in their Choice, to such as have shewed their Fidelity to the City, and their Courage and Constancy in opposing the Practices and Designs to bring the Magistracy of the City to be under the Absolute Will of the late Kings; the Cities Recovery being new, the greatest care ought to be taken to prevent a Relapse.

Therefore such only ought to have the Custody of your Liberties, whose Integrity and Watchfulness to preserve them, may be depended upon intirely.

Hopeful Converts to the City's Liberties, and the love of the Ancient *English* Government now establish'd, may be fit to be chosen Magistrates in quiet led times, when there shall be no Interest to be hoped for, but by faithfulness to your Laws and Liberties: But no man can answer it to his own conscience, to trust the City in any hands of suspected Fidelity, in this time of imminent Danger.

5. In this time of Difficulty and Necessity, to maintain the Authorities and Privileges of the City, 'tis your Duty to seek out men of the greatest Endowments, Wisdom, and Experience in Government, for the present Magistrates. Such who are under the least Temptations to dis-serve the City Government for their private Interests; Doubtless such are most necessary in the present state of the City, who have had greatest and longest experience in the way of its Government, its Customs, and peculiar Laws.

'Tis a vain objection that's made by some, That the Experienc'd Aldermen above the Chair, are not eligible again to that Office, by reason of a By-Law to that purpose. Let none be deceived thereby, to think that a By-Law was ever made to the intent either to bar or deprive the City of the greatest Service of such as were expert in their Service; if they wanted them; or to take away that Franchise from the old Servants of the City, to serve them whensoever there may be occasion: Let that By-Law with its Preface to shew its Intent, be read, and it will appear that these By-Laws gave a Franchise, and Ease to the City's old Servants that had been Mayors, that they should not be again Eligible, or compelled to serve in that Office without their own Contents; and the occasion of it was, That the City had put too great a burden upon such experienced Aldermen, by chusing them too often to be Mayors. From about the Year 1215, to 1525, there were about 28 Lord Mayors, who were Chosen some of them 3 times, some 4 times, and others 5 times; and till that By-Law came in H. 8's time, the City never favoured them. But this Indulgence to the City's old Servants, must not deprive the City of any of their Service, if they be content to serve.

Oh! That every Citizen may be found faithful in these his present important Duties; and that the good God may endue them with Wisdom to Chuse such a Lord Mayor, Sheriffs, and Chamberlain, as may be to the Safety, Benefit, and Glory of the City.

The Persons in Nomination, are,

The Right Hon ^{ble} . Sir <i>Tho. Pilkington</i> , Knight,	}	For LORD MAYOR.
Sir <i>Robert Clayton</i> , Knight,		
Sir <i>Francis Child</i> , Sir <i>Edw Clark</i> , Aldermen,		For SHERIFFS.
<i>Leonard Robinson</i> , Esq; the present Chamberlain,		For CHAMBERLAIN.